

REMARKS

Claims 25-39 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 25-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beardsley et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,467). These rejections are traversed as follows.

In order to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended to recite that if the information received by the control unit from the host processor includes information as to the logical storage area, the control unit controls allowance or delay of the read request or the write request by using the logical storage area, but if the information received from the host processor does not include the information as to the logical storage area, the control unit controls allowance or delay of the read request or the write request by using logical volumes.

Therefore, when receiving a read request or a write request from a host processor, the control unit determines, as area information for delay control, whether to use either a logical storage area or the logical volumes, depending upon whether logical storage area information is included. This way, exclusive processing can be

realized even if information as to the logical storage area is not sent from the host processor.

On the other hand, Beardsley et al disclose exclusive control using extents as a unit (see Fig. 7, step 100). However, Beardsley et al do not disclose or suggest a situation in which extent information is not sent from the host. At step 90 in Fig. 7, it is clear that the I/O operation includes the "define extent command". As such, Beardsley et al cannot realize the advantages of the presently claimed invention. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Request for Interview

Applicants request the Examiner to conduct a telephone interview with the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution. In this regard, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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